

### **Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-39 (Canceled)

Claim 40 (New): A method of identifying an agent capable of modulating GD domain mediated heterodimerization, comprising

carrying out a heterodimerization assay which includes a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein the first polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 36 and the second polypeptide is Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>, and an agent;

determining whether said agent inhibits or augments heterodimerization of said first polypeptide to said second polypeptide;

wherein if inhibition or augmentation of heterodimerization is determined, it indicates that said agent is capable of modulating GD domain mediated heterodimerization.

Claim 41 (New): The method of claim 40, wherein Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> is labeled.

Claim 42 (New): The method of claim 40, wherein Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> is present in a fusion protein.

Claim 43 (New): The method of claim 42, wherein said fusion protein is GST-Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 44 (New): The method of claim 40, wherein said agent inhibits heterodimerization of SEQ ID NO: 36 with Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 45 (New): The method of claim 40, wherein said agent augments heterodimerization of SEQ ID NO: 36 with Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 46 (New): A method of identifying a GD domain-mediated heterodimerization modulator comprising incubating a test compound with a polypeptide having SEQ ID

NO: 36 and Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>, and assaying for inhibition or activation of binding between SEQ ID

NO: 36 and Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 47 (New): The method of claim 46, wherein said Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> is labeled.

Claim 48 (New): The method of claim 46, wherein said Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> is present in a fusion protein.

Claim 49(New): The method of claim 48, wherein said fusion protein is GST- Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 50 (New): The method of claim 46, wherein said agent inhibits heterodimerization of SEQ ID NO: 36 and Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Clam 51 (New): The method of claim 46, wherein said agent augments heterodimerization of SEQ ID NO: 36 and Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 52 (New): A method of identifying an agent capable of modulating apoptosis in a cell, said method comprising

assaying an ability of the agent to modulate a heterodimerization activity between a GD domain of a protein or a polypeptide and a Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> protein or a polypeptide, wherein the heterodimerization activity is defined by an ability of the GD domain to interact with the Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> protein or a polypeptide, and

measuring an increase or decrease in the herodimerazation activity, thereby identifying said agent capable of modulating apoptosis in the cell.

Claim 53 (New): The method of claim 52, wherein the GD domain is characterized in SEQ ID NO:36.

Claim ~~57~~ 54 (New): The method of claim 52, wherein the increase in heterodimerization activity represents an increase in apoptosis.

Claim ~~58~~ 55 (New): The method of claim 52, wherein the decrease in heterodimerization activity represents a decrease in apoptosis.